

SENATE BILL 653  
By Beavers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated Section 71-3-502,  
relative to the rating system for childcare agencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-502(j)(2), is amended by adding  
the following as a new subdivision:

(F) In lieu of compliance with the environment rating scales element of  
the program assessment for the mandatory childcare agency report card system  
established in conformity with the provisions of subdivision (j)(2), a childcare  
agency may elect to be accredited by a national accrediting agency approved by  
the commissioner of human services. The National Association for the Education  
of Young Children, the National Association of Family Child Care, and the  
National Early Childhood Education Program Accreditation are initially certified  
as childcare accrediting agencies for purposes of this item. The department shall  
establish by rule the criteria for certification of additional childcare accrediting  
agencies and procedures for decertification, for purposes of this subdivision, of  
any childcare accrediting agency. Childcare agencies electing to maintain  
approved accreditation shall not be required to participate in the environmental  
rating scales element of program assessment in the report card system.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.